

8 文明回眸 | Civilization Glimpse

A Trip to the Grassland in Northwest Sichuan Grassland and Homeland: Where Life Begins

Intertwined are herdsmen, herds and grassland. Only the herdsmen, whose families have lived here for generations, understand the infinity, the attachment, the vitality, the bitter sweetness, the joy of life here. The key to opening an era of sustainable grassland husbandry is to pursue eco-friendly husbandry and scale economy by developing green and organic meat production, dairy production and fur production. Market, if given full play, will herald the sustainable development. "The survival of the fittest" still governs the world, in a morphed way. The eco-culture of the grassland cannot be reduced to a window-dressing; it should be integrated with modern technologies and lifestyles, like the folk music woven into the urban tapestry. The vitality of their nomadic lifestyle and the embrace of modern happiness will continue on this land.

40 特别策划 | Special Focus

Ecological stories of the grassland told in Thangka

Maixi Village, where Ba Rang calls home, bears the brunt of desertification of Ruo' ergai Grassland. It pained him to see swamps, wetland and lakes devoured by the raging desertification. To ease his own pain and to restore his ailing hometown, after graduation, with his fellow herdsmen, he waged a war against desertification. The victory of this war hinges on not only the concrete ways and means but also the eco-awareness and knowledge of the locals. A fresh perspective, a fond memory of the community and the unbreakable bond between the grassland and man will help the herdsmen carry the torch.

48 文化采撷 | Cultural Highlights

Yak of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

Yaks, as loyal friends of Tibetans, have been an indispensable source of subsistence of the local people. For centuries, this mild-tempered and easily domesticated animal with grit and stamina has infiltrated every fiber of the Tibetan society, making indelible marks on its ecological environment, production and the way of life.

The Sacred Yak of the Plateau

The Ecological Culture of Tibetan Yaks

Ruo' ergai Flower Lake, A Lake, a life

Ruo' ergai Flower Lake, a plateau lake in the Ruo' ergai Basin, is located in a national natural reserve of international prestige. As a representative of the namesake Ruo' ergai Wetland, it is a sanctuary for tourists, home to plenty of plants, and a paradise for birds, especially the migratory birds that usually fly here on their westward route. The unique Anduo Tibetan culture with an entrenched belief to protect the local grassland, wetland, lakes and mountains has written a glorious chapter of eco-culture.

72 理论观点 | Theoretical Views

Key to the Ecological Protection and Industrial Development of the Tibet Plateau Grassland

Across Tibet Plateau scatters 13.9 million hectares of grassland. For hundreds of years, the vast fertile grassland has been the main source of livelihood for local herdsman. To keep abreast with time, they need to resort to intensive husbandry and localized know-how to better promote the tradition and harness the natural resources.

82 美丽乡村 | Beautiful Countryside

Songgang: Tale of Beautiful Villages

Songgang boasts time-honored history, and a fortress group which has made the list of national-level cultural relics. The fortress group built in the middle Qing Dynasty is a telling example of the sophisticated architecture of Jiarong Tibet. It has been hailed as the Chinese Leaning Tower of Pisa. The former official residence of Songgang Chieftain was built in A.D. 634. Its view was spectacular, with a mystic touch of Jiarong culture in Tian Street. It was a focal point of exchanges between the north and the south, as its Mosidu Cliff-painting bore testimony to that part of history.

90 文化采撷 | Cultural Highlights

A Look into the Flowers Unique to the Grassland in Northwest Sichuan